



OMPHALINA

ISSN 1925-1858



OMPHALINA is the lackadaisical newsletter of Foray Newfoundland & Labrador. There is no schedule of publications, no promise to appear again. Its primary purpose is to serve as a conduit of information to registrants to the upcoming foray and secondarily as a communications tool with members.

The content is neither discussed nor approved by the Board of Directors. Therefore, opinions expressed do not represent the views of the Board, the Corporation, the partners, the sponsors, or the members. Uncredited opinions are solely those of the Editor.

Please address comments, complaints and contributions to Andrus Voitk, the self-appointed Editor:

foray AT nlmushrooms.ca



**FORAY
NEWFOUNDLAND
AND LABRADOR**

is an amateur, volunteer-run, community, not-for-profit organization with a mission to organize enjoyable and informative amateur mushroom forays in Newfoundland and Labrador and disseminate the knowledge gained.

Webpage: www.nlmushrooms.ca

COVER

The many faces of *Macrotyphula fistulosa* var. *contorta*, seemingly a very uncommon mushroom in North America. Google it and you get very few real hits, all from Europe. Jim Ginns, a Canadian mycologist studying non-agaricoid basidiomycetes all his life, believes he may have collected it once. He found three North American records of it, all from BC. This one was identified by Esteri Ohenoja. Some big white birch was taken down in our area and this mushroom grew on the dead branches of live standing trees, high in the sky. Who knows, perhaps it is very common, and well known to the mycologists among the warbler and sparrow population? But certainly not to us. That is why you get four different pictures on the cover, so that you can get a bit of a feel for its shape spectrum. The next time you see it, you can call out the name from 50 paces and look real smart. Guaranteed that even if you were in the midst of mycology professors, nobody would know it but the sparrows, to whom it is old hat, and you.

What do we know about it? Not much. *Macrotyphula* is related genetically to the chanterelles. The genus has very few species. *M. fistulosa* seems to like cooler climates: it is found in northern latitudes or at higher altitudes, and seems to fruit very late in the season. *M. fistulosa* var. *fistulosa* is more common than var. *contorta*, and grows on the ground, on duff of deciduous trees, or directly on dead or rotting wood. It is shaped like a straight thin club, much like a thinner and taller version of the much more common *Clavariadelphus ligula*. Our variety, on the other hand, is seldom nice and straight, earning it the name *contorta*. It grows on dead branches of living, standing deciduous trees, not on the ground. Perhaps it is common. If you see a birch being taken down in a wet season, take a look. If you find it, collect it and report it.

Message from the Editor

Change in leadership

The purpose of this issue is to let members know that Foray Newfoundland & Labrador has had a change in leadership. The Board has met twice since the foray and has divided its duties. New President is **Michael Burzynski**. Michael has been with the Foray since the inception in 2003, and together with his wife Anne, has made a very major contribution throughout the years. A man of many talents, he has filled several roles, but his major work surely has been to look after the herbarium, oversee the Database Team at the foray, pack and transport all specimens, catalogue all collections, dry at home what was not dry, correlate collection bags to database, compile the preliminary list of raw data, and so forth. A major piece of work, requiring at least two weeks' worth of eight-hour days after the foray. Tedious, but worth it for the glory, media attention and bounteous graft. Roger's lens caught Michael coming up the stairs from the warm glow of his comfortable home to take the helm of the good ship *Foray*.

The new Secretary is everybody's favourite Academic Mycologist in Newfoundland and Labrador, **Faye Murrin**. The books have been taken over by geologist **Geoff Thurlow**, whose main interest is to learn which mushrooms are mycorrhizal with gold ore. The remainder of the Board of Directors is made



up of Randy Batten (Social Director), Sean Dolter, Jamie Graham (Trail Director), Jeri Graham, Anne Marceau (Program Director), Andrus Voitk (Faculty Foray Director), Maria Voitk, Marian Wissink (Publishing Director). The Board also used its discretionary power to appoint **Nathan Wareham** as temporary Director in charge of our webpage.

Mushrooms in the press!

We just got some more material from our friends at **The Northern Pen**, advance articles about our last and past foray. Although yesterday's news, perhaps they are of interest to members, so we have inserted them here to flesh out the newsletter. You might also be interested to know that the Grenfell Museum site has put pictures of our Quidi Vidi QuuQup on its blog <<http://grenfell-historicproperties.com/2010/09/11/mushroom-forey-2010/>> showing Chef Ulrich at work. They were very impressed with the cooking, as were we—it was so good that they waived our rental fee! Very friendly: when they learned that we needed more BBQs, staff called home and one man even had his father deliver a BBQ for us to use. It don't get better'n this!

Happy mushrooming!

andrus

This article appeared after Jamie Graham and Andrus Voitk were interviewed by the Pen, while in St. Anthony scouting out accommodation, venues, facilities and trails for the foray a year earlier. It is difficult to do that sort of thing without being detected in a small town, and our celebrities were immediately hauled to the Editor's office for an interview.

NORTHERN PEN, TUESDAY, AUG. 4, 2009, SECTION A, PAGE 7

Mushroom foray coming to St. Anthony area

A little over a year from now, a group of people wearing blaze orange ball caps will be scouring the hills and trails around the tip of the Northern Peninsula.

They're not big game hunters, but they are hunters.

They will be signed up to take part in Foray Newfoundland and Labrador - the proper name for mushroom enthusiasts.

"We think people are going to be very interested in what they find when they get here," said Jamie Graham of Corner Brook.

He paired up with Andrus Voitk of Humber Village earlier this month. The pair spent a weekend scouting out the area for mushrooms.

"We were very impressed with what we found - as we thought we would be," added Mr. Voitk.

Foray Newfoundland and Labrador takes place in the St. Anthony area Sept. 10-12, 2010. This year's foray is set for the Lion Max Simms Camp in Central Newfoundland, Sept. 11-13.

The agenda for next year's foray starts off with a gathering of participants and mushroom experts at L'Anse aux Meadows on Friday evening. On Saturday morn-

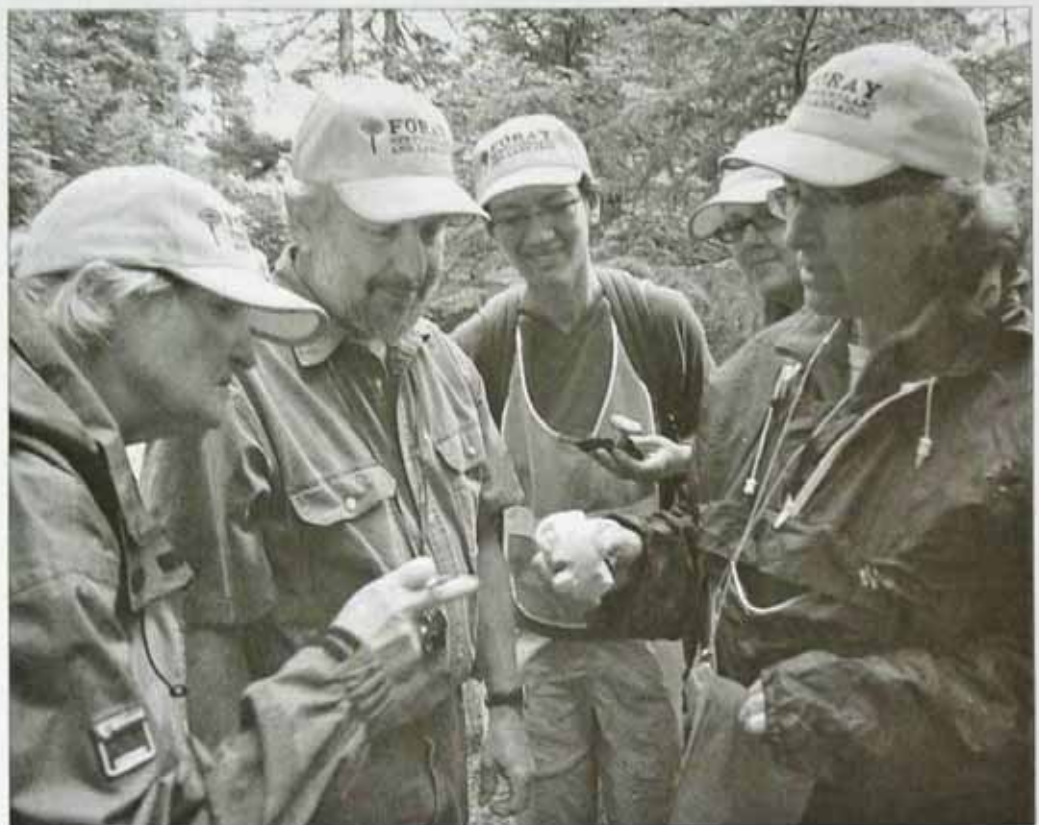
ing, registrants will be assigned to small groups. Led by a team leader from the area, the groups will hike trails and countryside in the areas of Pistolet Bay, Fishing Point, Goose Cove, St. Carol's-Great Breat, the Aurora Nordic Ski Club, Cremaillere

Harbour and Grenfell trails. On Sunday morning, workshops will be held at the St. Anthony campus of the College of the North Atlantic. The sessions on photographing mushrooms and identifying various varieties will be led by experts from the Unit-

ed States, Europe and the Northern Peninsula.

The group is hoping that local people will join in and take part in the foray.

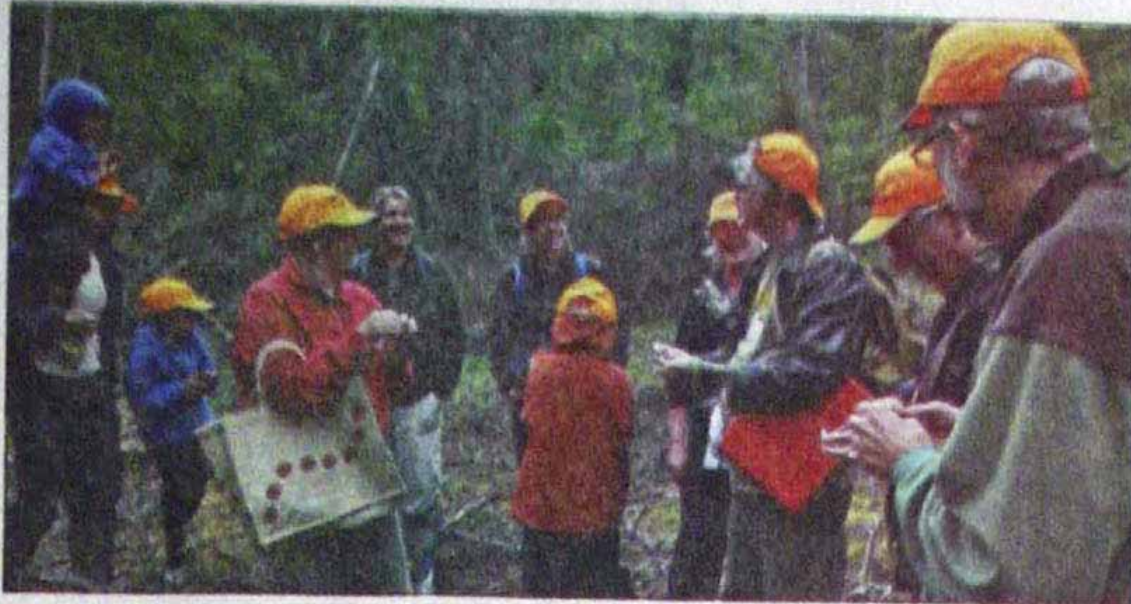
More information about the gathering is available at www.nlmushrooms.ca, or by e-mail at foray@nlmushrooms.ca



Participants in last year's mushroom foray get a close look at a fungus found along a trail. At left is micologist Faye Murrin. ROGER SMITH PHOTO

Jamie Graham and Andrus Voitk were also in town when this article appeared, but not directly involved (well, OK, Andrus Wrote it). Keep your eyes on The Pen—who knows what more will appear?

PAGE 10, SECTION B, NORTHERN PEN, MONDAY, JULY 5, 2010



A foray group from 2009. American mycologist Tom Volk (cap backwards) explains some features of a mushroom find to participants. Learning about the role of mushrooms in our forests is enjoyed by all age groups. The findings form part of the natural history knowledge for our province.

A foray into fungi

Ever wondered about all those mushrooms you see in Northern Peninsula woods in the fall? Well, here is a good chance to find out.

Foray Newfoundland & Labrador is a club of amateurs interested in finding out more about our mushrooms. The club has conducted annual mushroom forays since 2003 and this year's foray, named the Viking Foray, will take place from in the woods and trails of the Northern Peninsula from September 10 to 12. Headquarters will be the College of the North Atlantic (CNA) in St. Anthony.

About 60 people are expected to participate and although the majority will be from Newfoundland and Labrador, a proportion of keen mushroomers will travel from all over the world. Most people are curious amateurs with no mushroom knowledge, interested in learning a bit more about this group of organisms.

To their number is added a group of experts invited from Europe, USA, mainland Canada and our province, to help with the accurate identification of finds. The experts arrive a week ahead of the foray, to collect and familiarize themselves with the mushrooms of the region.

At the end of the foray there will be an accurate inventory of Northern Peninsula mushroom species which will be displayed on tables for participants to view.

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As part of the mushroom foray, the CNA will be opened to the public for a Community Fungi Fair, where interested members of the community can see the display of mushrooms found in the region. Interpreters will be on hand to offer explanations and answer questions.

Foray participants registered to date range in age from eight months to over eight decades. They are split into small groups, which go collecting with a knowledgeable leader. There are talks in the evening and workshops on Sunday morning. A reception is planned for L'Anse aux Meadows on Friday evening and on Saturday there is a cook-up to taste edible wild mushrooms.

To register, go to www.nlmushrooms.ca.

A Timely Bird Special at a \$10.00 discount is available to the end of July. To encourage local residents to join in and learn about local mushrooms, the Foray will allow all Great Northern Peninsula residents to increase the deduction to \$15.00 per person to the end of July.

LI CHENS added this year!



FORAY
NEWFOUNDLAND
AND LABRADOR

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Terra Nova National Park

Headquarters: Terra Nova Hospitality Home

September 9-11, 2011

GUEST FACULTY*

Teuvo Ahfi
Stephen Clayden
Renée Lebeuf
Raymond McNeil
Faye Murrin
Todd Osmundson
André Paul
Roger Smith
Andy Taylor
Greg Thom
Zheng Wang

*tentative at time of publication

Please check our website in the Spring, 2011, for
Information & Registration Forms:

www.nlmushrooms.ca